

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (currently amended). A method for detecting defects in a magnetic medium of a data handling system, the magnetic medium having a number of user data wedges each disposed between an adjacent pair of servo data wedges, the servo data wedges storing servo control data and the user data wedges configured to store user data in data sectors, each user data wedge having a unique address in relation to angular position of the user data wedge on the magnetic medium, the method comprising steps of: scanning consecutive data wedges on a data storage medium for defects by transducing a readback signal from said wedges [beginning at a wedge non-adjacent an angular index reference position] and identifying a defect location on the medium from said readback signal.

- (a) ~~writing a predetermined sequence of data to the user data wedges;~~
- (b) ~~reading the data from the user data wedges to generate a readback signal;~~
- (c) ~~generating a sequence of discrete time sample values from the readback signal;~~

and

- (d) ~~identifying a defect in the magnetic medium in relation to the discrete time sample values and outputting to a buffer of the data handling system a multi-bit information record having at least one bit composing the address of the user data wedge containing the defect.~~

2. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~wherein identifying step (d) further comprises outputting to the buffer a second multi-bit informational record having at least~~

one bit composing an address of the defect within the user data wedge containing the defect
wherein the scanning step further comprises generating a multi-bit informational record
having at least one bit composing an address of a selected data wedge in which the defect
location is disposed.

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3. (currently amended). The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, ~~further comprising a step of (e)~~
~~outputting nothing to the buffer when a user data wedge is found to be defect free~~ wherein
the scanning step further comprises generating a second multi-bit informational record
having at least one bit composing an address of the defect location within the selected data
wedge.

4. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the predetermined~~
~~sequence of data of writing step (a) comprises~~ wherein the scanning step further comprises
a prior step of writing a 2T oscillating pattern to the data wedges.

5. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~data handling system~~
~~comprises a disc drive and the magnetic medium~~ data storage medium comprises a rigid,
rotatable magnetic recording disc.

6. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein ~~a selected servo data~~
~~wedge corresponds to an index point as an angular reference for the magnetic medium,~~
~~wherein selected servo data wedge immediately precedes a first user data wedge, and~~
~~wherein the reading step (b) commences at a selected data wedge other than the first user~~

~~data wedge on the magnetic medium~~ the scanning step further comprises generating a sequence of discrete time sample values from the readback signal and identifying the defect location in relation to said sequence.

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7. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:
subsequently formatting the data storage medium to form a plurality of user available data sectors in the data wedges for subsequent use in storing user data, wherein a user available data sector is not formed over the defect location identified during the scanning step.

~~(e) formatting the data handling system to form a plurality of user available data sectors in the user data wedges for subsequent use in storing user data, wherein a user available data sector is not formed over a defect detected during identifying step (d).~~

8. (currently amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined~~
~~sequence of data of writing step (a) is written across the complete angular extent of each user data wedge~~ data storage medium further comprises angularly spaced, radially aligned servo wedges between which the data wedges are disposed, the servo wedges comprising servo fields that define a plurality of concentric tracks on the medium, and wherein the scanning step further comprises sequentially positioning a data transducer over an initial track to scan the data wedges thereon, advancing the data transducer to the next adjacent track and commencing scanning the data wedges thereon without waiting for the angular index reference position to reach the data transducer, and repeating until all of the plurality of concentric tracks on the data storage medium have been scanned.

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9. (currently amended). ~~A data handling system,~~ An apparatus comprising:

~~a magnetic medium having a number of user data wedges each disposed between an adjacent pair of servo data wedges, the servo data wedges storing servo control data and the user data wedges configured to store user data in data sectors, each user data wedge having a unique address in relation to angular position of the user data wedge on the magnetic medium;~~

~~a head which writes a predetermined sequence of data to the user data wedges and subsequently reads the data from the user data wedges to generate a readback signal;~~

~~a read channel which generates a sequence of discrete time sample values from the readback signal;~~

~~a data buffer configured to temporarily store data during transfer between the magnetic medium and a host device; and~~

~~a media scan controller which identifies a defect in the magnetic medium in relation to the discrete time sample values and outputs to the data buffer a multi-bit information record having at least one bit composing the address of the user data wedge containing the defect.~~

a data storage medium comprising consecutive data wedges and an angular index reference position defined thereon; and

a media scan controller which scans the data wedges for defects by transducing a readback signal from said wedges beginning at a wedge non-adjacent the angular index reference position and by identifying a defect location on the medium from said readback signal.

10. (currently amended). The ~~data handling system~~ apparatus of claim 9, wherein the media scan controller further ~~outputs to the data buffer a second~~ generates a multi-bit information record having at least one bit composing an address of ~~the defect within the user~~ a selected data wedge containing the defect location.

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11. (currently amended). The ~~data handling system~~ apparatus of claim 9 10, wherein the media scan controller ~~does not write information to the buffer when no defects are detected~~ further generates a second multi-bit information record having at least one bit composing an address of the defect location within the selected data wedge.

12. (currently amended). The ~~data handling system~~ apparatus of claim 9, wherein the media scan controller prewrites a predetermined sequence of data comprises a 2T oscillating pattern to the data wedges prior to scanning the data wedges for defects.

13. (currently amended). The ~~data handling system~~ apparatus of claim 9, wherein ~~the data handling system comprises a disc drive and the magnetic~~ the data storage medium comprises a rigid, rotatable magnetic recording disc.

14. (currently amended). The ~~data handling system~~ apparatus of claim 9, ~~wherein a selected servo data wedge corresponds to an index point as an angular reference for the magnetic medium, wherein selected servo data wedge immediately precedes a first user data wedge, and wherein the head commences reading the data at a selected data wedge other than the first user data wedge on the magnetic medium~~ further comprising an

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interface controller which subsequently formats the data storage medium to form a plurality of user available data sectors in the data wedges for subsequent use in storing user data, wherein a user available data sector is not formed over the defect location identified by the media scan controller.

15. (currently amended) ~~The data handling system apparatus~~ of claim 9, ~~wherein the media scan controller further generates a defect map identifying a defective sector location corresponding to the defect so that, during a subsequent formatting operation, a user available data sector is not provided at the defective sector location~~ wherein the data storage medium further comprises angularly spaced, radially aligned servo wedges between which the data wedges are disposed, the servo wedges comprising servo fields that define a plurality of concentric tracks on the medium, and wherein the media scan controller sequentially positions a data transducer over an initial track to scan the data wedges thereon, advances the data transducer to the next adjacent track and commences scanning the data wedges thereon without waiting for the angular index reference position to reach the data transducer, and repeats until all of the plurality of concentric tracks on the data storage medium have been scanned.

Claims 16-20 have been cancelled.